

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 19 and 20 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 5-9 and 12-18 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge that is detachably attachable to ~~the~~ a body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus and comprises an electrophotographic photosensitive drum, a charging unit configured and positioned to charge ~~for charging~~ the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and a development unit configured and positioned to develop ~~for developing~~ a latent image formed on the electrophotographic photosensitive drum using a development roller, wherein the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and the charging unit are attached to the development unit, ~~the~~ said method comprising:

(a) a side plate removing step of removing first and second side plates disposed ~~to the process cartridge~~ at both the lengthwise ends of the process cartridge ~~thereof in a lengthwise direction~~;

(b) a charging unit detaching ~~removing~~ step of detaching ~~removing~~ the charging unit from the development unit;

(c) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum removing step of removing the electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the development unit;

(d) a shaft extracting step of extracting a shaft from the electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

(e) a shaft inserting step of inserting a shaft into a new electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

(f) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum attaching step of attaching the new electrophotographic photosensitive drum to the development unit;

(g) a charging unit attaching step of attaching the charging unit to the development unit to which the new electrophotographic photosensitive drum is attached; and

(h) a positioning step of attaching the first and second side plates to the development unit to which the new electrophotographic photosensitive drum and the charging unit are attached, positioning the development unit and the charging unit ~~by~~ with the first side plate as well as supporting the electrophotographic photosensitive drum movably in a direction perpendicular to the lengthwise direction of the process cartridge, and positioning the development unit, the charging unit and the electrophotographic photosensitive drum ~~by~~ with the second side plate.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge that is detachably attachable to ~~the~~ a body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus and comprises an electrophotographic photosensitive drum, a charging unit configured and positioned to charge ~~for charging~~ the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and a development unit configured and positioned to develop ~~for developing~~ a latent image formed on the electrophotographic photosensitive drum using a development roller, wherein the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and the charging unit are attached to the development unit, the method comprising:

(a) a side plate removing step of removing first and second side plates disposed to the process cartridge at both lengthwise the ends of the process cartridge thereof in a lengthwise direction;

(b) a charging unit ~~removing~~ detaching step of detaching ~~removing~~ the charging unit from the development unit;

(c) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum removing step of removing the electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the development unit;

(d) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum attaching step of attaching a new electrophotographic photosensitive drum to the development unit;

(e) a charging unit attaching step of attaching the charging unit to the development unit to which the new electrophotographic photosensitive drum is attached; and

(f) a positioning step of attaching the first and second side plates to the development unit to which the new electrophotographic photosensitive drum and the charging unit are attached, positioning the development unit and the charging unit ~~by~~ with the first side plate as well as supporting the new electrophotographic photosensitive drum movably in a direction perpendicular to the lengthwise direction of the process cartridge, and positioning the development unit, the charging unit and the electrophotographic photosensitive drum ~~by~~ with the second side plate.

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge according to Claim 1 or 2 ~~claims 1 and 2~~, wherein, at the said electrophotographic photosensitive

drum attaching step, the first side plate is incompletely attached to the development unit to which the new electrophotographic photosensitive drum is attached, and the new electrophotographic photosensitive drum is tentatively fixed to the development unit by the first side plate.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge according to Claim 1 or 2 ~~claims 1 and 2~~, wherein, at the said charging unit attaching step, a brush member attached to the charging unit is cleaned before the charging unit is attached.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge according to Claim 1 or 2 ~~claims 1 and 2~~, wherein, at any of the said steps, a memory element; ~~which has a communication antenna and communication means capable of communicating with communication means fixedly disposed to the body of the image forming apparatus in a non-~~ ~~contact state~~, is replaced with a memory element having different information.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge that is detachably attachable to ~~the~~ a body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus and comprises an electrophotographic photosensitive drum, a charging unit configured and positioned to charge ~~for charging~~ the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and a development unit configured and positioned to develop ~~for developing~~ a latent image formed on the electrophotographic photosensitive drum using a development roller, wherein the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and the charging unit are attached to the development unit, ~~the~~ said method comprising:

(a) a side plate removing step of removing first and second side plates disposed ~~to the process cartridge~~ at both lengthwise the ends of the process cartridge thereof in a lengthwise direction;

(b) a charging unit detaching removing step of detaching removing the charging unit from the development unit;

(c) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum removing step of removing the electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the development unit;

(d) a cover member removing step of removing a cover member from the development unit, the cover member being configured and positioned to cover ~~for covering~~ the surface of the development roller except for the portion thereof facing the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and to hold ~~holding~~ a sheet member in contact with the electrophotographic photosensitive drum in the lengthwise direction thereof, ~~from the development unit~~;

(e) a pin member extracting step of extracting first and second pin members from the development unit, the first and second pin members being configured and positioned to fix ~~for fixing~~ bearings that rotatably support the development roller at both the ends thereof, ~~from the development unit~~;

(f) a regulation member removing step of removing a regulation member from the development unit, the regulation member being configured and positioned to regulate ~~for regulating~~ the angle in a rotational direction of a magnet roller included in the development roller; ~~from the development unit~~;

(g) a development roller removing step of removing the development roller from the development unit;

(h) a developing agent ~~in development unit~~ evacuating step of evacuating the developing agent in the development unit from the opening of the development unit that appears when the development roller is removed;

(i) a developing agent ~~deposited on development roller~~ removing step of removing the developing agent deposited on the development roller;

(j) a developing agent filling step of filling new developing agent into the development unit from the opening of the development unit;

(k) a development roller attaching step of attaching the development roller to the development unit;

(l) a regulation member attaching step of attaching the regulation member to the development unit;

(m) a pin member attaching step of attaching the first and second pin members to the development unit;

(n) a cover member attaching step of attaching the cover member to the development unit;

(o) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum attaching step of attaching the electrophotographic photosensitive drum to the development unit;

(p) a charging unit attaching step of attaching the charging unit to the development unit to which the electrophotographic photosensitive drum is attached in said electrophotographic photosensitive drum attaching step; and

(q) a positioning step of attaching the first and second side plates to the development unit to which the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and the charging unit are attached in said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and charging unit attaching steps, positioning the

development unit and the charging unit ~~by~~ with the first side plate as well as supporting the electrophotographic photosensitive drum movably in a direction perpendicular to the lengthwise direction of the process cartridge, and positioning the development unit, the charging unit and the electrophotographic photosensitive drum ~~by~~ with the second side plate.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge that is detachably attachable to ~~the~~ a body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus and comprises an electrophotographic photosensitive drum, a charging unit configured and positioned to charge ~~for charging~~ the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and a development unit configured and positioned to develop ~~for developing~~ a latent image formed on the electrophotographic photosensitive drum using a development roller, wherein the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and the charging unit are attached to the development unit, the method comprising:

(a) an open/close shutter opening step of opening ~~the~~ an open/close shutter of a developing agent replenishing port disposed in ~~to~~ the development unit;

(b) a first developing agent ~~in development unit~~ evacuating step of evacuating the developing agent in the development unit from the developing agent replenishing port whose open/close shutter is opened;

(c) an open/close shutter closing step of closing the open/close shutter;

(d) a side plate removing step of removing first and second side plates disposed ~~to the process cartridge~~ at both ~~the~~ lengthwise ends of the process cartridge thereof ~~in a lengthwise direction~~;

(e) a charging unit ~~detaching removing~~ step of ~~detaching removing~~ the charging unit from the development unit;

(f) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum removing step of removing the electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the development unit;

(g) a cover member removing step of removing a cover member from the development unit, the cover member being configured and positioned to cover for covering the surface of the development roller except for the portion thereof facing the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and to hold holding a sheet member in contact with the electrophotographic photosensitive drum in the lengthwise direction, ~~from the development unit;~~

(h) a pin member extracting step of extracting first and second pin members from the development unit, the first and second pin members being configured and positioned to fix for fixing bearings that rotatably support the development roller at both the ends thereof, ~~from the development unit;~~

(i) a regulation member removing step of removing a regulation member from the development unit, the regulating member being configured and positioned to regulate for ~~regulating~~ the angle in a rotational direction of a magnet roller included in the development roller, ~~from the development unit;~~

(j) a development roller removing step of removing the development roller from the development unit;

(k) a second developing agent ~~in development unit~~ evacuating step of evacuating the developing agent in the development unit from the opening of the development unit that appears when the development roller is removed;

(l) a developing agent ~~deposited on development roller~~ removing step of removing the developing agent deposited on the development roller;

(m) a developing agent filling step of filling the development unit with new developing agent from the opening of the development unit;

(n) a development roller attaching step of attaching the development roller to the development unit;

(o) a regulation member attaching step of attaching the regulation member to the development unit;

(p) a pin member attaching step of attaching the first and second pin members to the development unit;

(q) a cover member attaching step of attaching the cover member to the development unit;

r) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum attaching step of attaching the electrophotographic photosensitive drum to the development unit;

(s) a charging unit attaching step of attaching the charging unit to the development unit to which the electrophotographic photosensitive drum is attached in said electrophotographic photosensitive drum attaching step; and

(t) a positioning step of attaching the first and second side plates to the development unit to which the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and the charging unit are attached in said charging unit attaching step and in said electrophotographic photosensitive drum attaching step, positioning the development unit and the charging unit by with the first side plate as well as supporting the electrophotographic photosensitive drum movably in a direction perpendicular to

the lengthwise direction, and positioning the development unit, the charging unit and the electrophotographic photosensitive drum ~~by~~ with the second side plate.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge according to Claim 8 or 9 ~~claims 8 and 9~~, wherein, at the electrophotographic photosensitive drum attaching step ~~process~~, the first side plate is attached up to a midpoint of the development unit to which the electrophotographic photosensitive drum is attached, and the electrophotographic photosensitive drum is tentatively fixed to the development unit by the first side plate.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge according to Claim 8 or 9 ~~claims 8 and 9~~, wherein, at ~~the~~ said charging unit attaching step, a brush member attached to the charging unit is cleaned before the charging unit is attached.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge according to Claim 8 or 9 ~~claims 8 and 9~~, wherein, at the developing agent ~~deposited on development roller~~ removing step, the development roller is replaced with a new development roller.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge according to Claim 8 or 9 ~~claims 8 and 9~~, wherein ~~the~~ said cover member removing step, ~~the~~ said

pin member extracting step, and said ~~the~~ regulation member removing step are executed in random order.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge according to Claim 8 or 9 ~~claims 8 and 9~~, wherein ~~the~~ said regulation member attaching step, ~~the~~ said pin member attaching step, and ~~the~~ said cover member attaching step are executed in random order.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge according to Claim 8 or 9 ~~claims 8 and 9~~, wherein, at any of ~~the~~ said steps, a memory element; ~~which has a communication antenna and communication means capable of communicating with communication means fixedly disposed to the body of the image forming apparatus in a non-contact state;~~ is replaced with a memory element having different information.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of refurbishing ~~reproducing~~ a process cartridge according to Claim 9, ~~claims 8 and 9~~, wherein ~~the~~ said open/close shutter opening step, ~~the~~ said first developing agent ~~in development unit~~ evacuating step, and ~~the~~ said open/close shutter closing open/close process ~~step may be~~ are executed at any time prior to ~~the~~ said development roller removing step.

19-20. (Cancelled)